

Wayne Allard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2004

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**SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD RAISES LOWRY ASBESTOS ISSUE
AT KEY SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
Asks Air Force to assume responsibility for cleanup costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard Thursday asked a series of pointed questions regarding the presence of asbestos buried in the soil at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver in order to establish the Air Force's financial responsibility for its cleanup.

Senator Allard questioned Air Force Major General Dean Fox at a meeting of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support.

In 1993, the Air Force, the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Colorado conducted an environmental baseline study for Lowry Air Force Base. Although the survey identified a former hospital at the site, the survey did not disclose that the Air Force had buried debris from the demolition of that hospital on the Air Force base.

Senator Allard asked why the Air Force did not disclose information about the buried asbestos in 1993, and why the Air Force had designated the Northwest neighborhood of Lowry (where the asbestos was found) a "Category I" site, which means that there was no evidence of hazardous materials.

"Given the discovery of asbestos across the site, would the Air Force still give the site a Category I designation? Doesn't this discovery make the Air Force liable for cleaning up the site?" Senator Allard asked.

General Fox was unable to answer the questions; a formal response from the Air Force is expected within 10 days.

After the hearing, Senator Allard said, "We have begun the process of finding a solution to the Lowry asbestos problem, and determining responsibility for reimbursement of asbestos cleanup costs incurred by builders and others working to redevelop Lowry."

"The information we have indicates that the Air Force has a clear responsibility to pay for those cleanup costs," the Senator said.

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